

CHAPTER VIII

MACAULAY'S TREATMENT OF SCOTTISH HISTORY

ONE of the merits of Macaulay is that he treats the Revolution broadly and comprehensively, connects throughout the history of England with that of Ireland and Scotland, and shows how the change of government in one country affected the fortunes of the other two. It was a more difficult task than his readers realise, for there was at that time no good history of either Ireland or Scotland in existence, nor were there available many of those monographs on particular subjects which help to replace consecutive narratives. Take, for instance, Scotland. Malcolm Laing's verbose and obsolete History of Scotland from the Union of the Crowns to the Union of the Kingdoms was the best available account. Tytler's excellent history stopped short in 1603 > Hill Burton's was not yet published. However, the first instalment of Burton's book, which covered the period from 1689 to 1745^ appeared in 1853, and was much used by Macaulay in his account of William III's reign. At present a historian of the period has at his service, Hill Burton's revised and completed history,, the books of Professor Hume Brown, Mr. Andrew Lang, and Mr. W. L. Mathieson, besides a number of biographies of particular persons or treatises on particular subjects. Take into account also the new evidence made

accessible during
the last sixty years, the documentary
publications of the
government, the reports of the Historical
Manuscripts
Commission, the volumes issued by the
Scottish History
Society and other societies, and the matter
contained in